

Think Like a Hacker

This is not a talk about  
in-depth, detailed  
exploit techniques

@Brunty

Developer

Mentor & mentee

Tinkerer

# Who are hackers?



“

Black hat: hacker doing evil

White hat: hacker doing good

Grey hat: hacker hacking

Top hat: hacker doing fancy stuff

@beerbikesbacon

Clever  
Creative  
Curious

Why do they do it?

Financial gain

Reputation

Corporate reasons

Ideological reasons

Stumbled upon something



# What makes you a target?



Popularity

Politics & perspective

People

Pot-luck

Quick wins

What can you do to  
start reducing risk?

No magic solution

Embed *security*  
considerations into the  
*whole* project workflow

“

No-one has the time or money for securing their systems until it's too late

Clinton Ingrams

YOU'RE ABOUT  
TO HACK TIME,  
ARE YOU SURE?

YES NO



It is *every* developer's  
responsibility

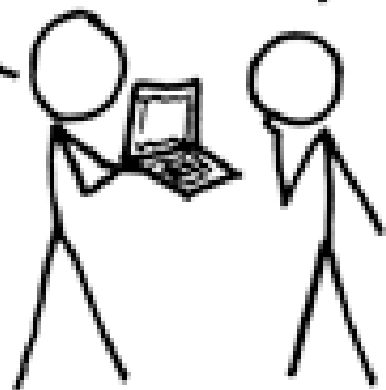
# The people problem

A CRYPTO NERD'S  
IMAGINATION:

HIS LAPTOP'S ENCRYPTED.  
LET'S BUILD A MILLION-DOLLAR  
CLUSTER TO CRACK IT.

NO GOOD! IT'S  
4096-BIT RSA!

BLAST! OUR  
EVIL PLAN  
IS FOILED!



WHAT WOULD  
ACTUALLY HAPPEN:

HIS LAPTOP'S ENCRYPTED.  
DRUG HIM AND HIT HIM WITH  
THIS \$5 WRENCH UNTIL  
HE TELLS US THE PASSWORD.



Principle of **least** privilege

Limit **who** has access to  
**what**

Do all your devs really  
need 24/7 access to  
your production DB?

“

No developer should ever have a permanent login, or access to any credentials

David McKay

“

That's not to say that a “Break Glass” button in the admin interface can't generate a prod database login that's valid for an hour; but it needs to log who requested it and take a reason; and notify slack, et al

David McKay



Where is your data  
stored?

# MongoDB Database Exposed 188 Million Records: Researchers

Data Apparently Originated in a GitHub Repository

Who are the third  
parties you trust with  
your data?

Who are the third parties you trust with your customer data?

# Shodan

Check your repos for  
secrets

zricethezav/gitleaks

Check your public sites  
for secrets



Google dorking

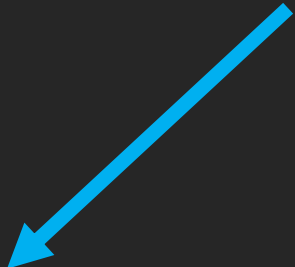
DB\_PASSWORD filetype:env

# OSINT

Curiosity  
“what if...”

Don't trust user input

“I’d like to be removed  
from the mailing list  
please”



“I’d like to be removed  
from the mailing list  
please”

# Use prepared statements

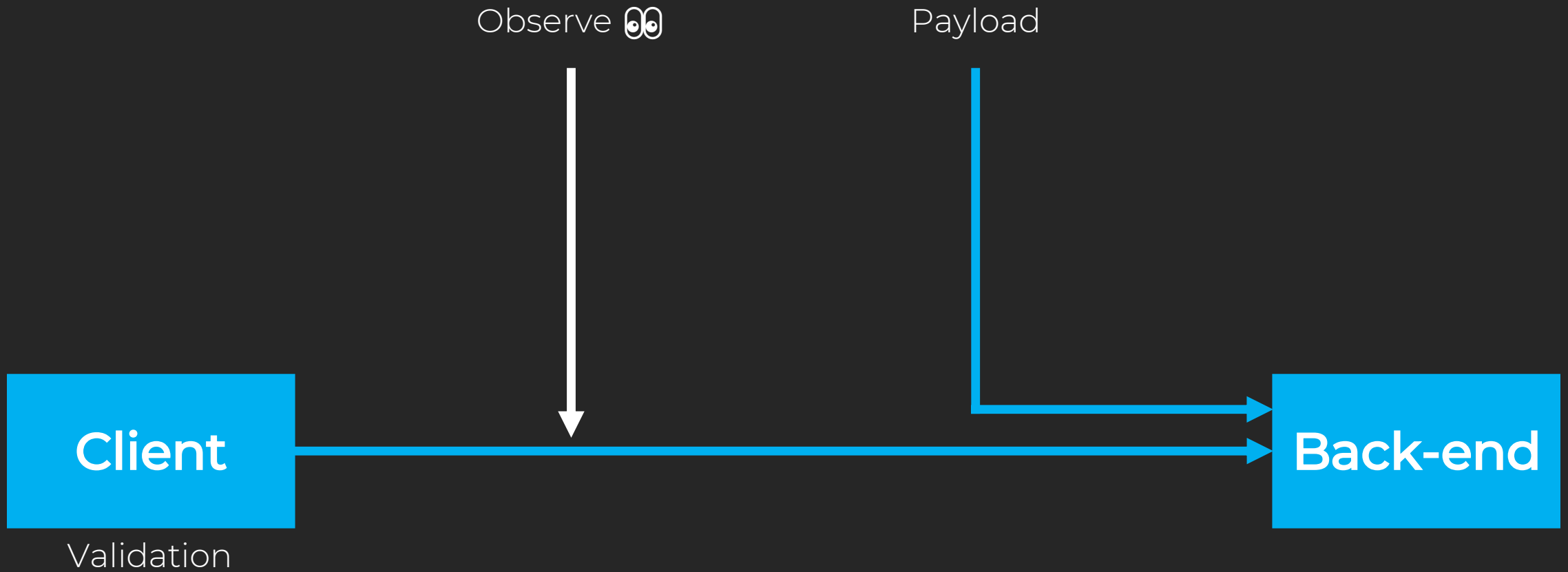


It's 2019, but injection is  
still #1 in OWASP Top 10

Don't trust data

Don't just validate  
client-side





# Broken access control



Do you trust this?



123457  
?





Don't trust users ~~input~~

# Broken authentication

Hash passwords  
properly

Don't use default  
passwords

Don't re-use passwords

# haveibeenpwned.com

## @TroyHunt

### Breaches you were pwned in

A "breach" is an incident where data has been unintentionally exposed to the public. Using the [1Password password manager](#) helps you ensure all your passwords are strong and unique such that a breach of one service doesn't put your other services at risk.



**Adobe:** In October 2013, 153 million Adobe accounts were breached with each containing an internal ID, username, email, *encrypted* password and a password hint in plain text. The password cryptography was poorly done and many were quickly resolved back to plain text. The unencrypted hints also disclosed much about the passwords adding further to the risk that hundreds of millions of Adobe customers already faced.

**Compromised data:** Email addresses, Password hints, Passwords, Usernames

Don't allow your **users**  
to **re-use** passwords

5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99

Google

5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99

All Shopping News Images Videos More Settings Tools

About 15,600 results (0.38 seconds)

**MD5 reverse for 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99**  
<https://md5.gromweb.com> > md5=5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99  
MD5 reverse for MD5 hash 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99.

**Hash Md5: 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99**  
<https://md5hashing.net> > hash > 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99  
2 Nov 2015 - Decoded hash Md5: 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99: password.

**5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99 - Hash Toolkit**  
<https://hashtoolkit.com> > ... > 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99  
Decrypt md5 Hash Results for: 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99. Algorithm, Hash, Decrypted. md5, 5f4dcc3b5aa765d61d8327deb882cf99, password ...

password



# pwned passwords API

Use

Multi Factor Authentication

But not SMS

What **packages** do you  
**trust** in your application?

roave/security-advisories

```
php checker security:check /path/to/composer.lock
```

More packages than you  
think

Front-end  
Mobile App(s)  
Back-end  
Platform / OS  
Infrastructure



Keep them up-to-date

Death by a thousand  
paper-cuts

Mistakes **will** happen

Make sure you don't miss  
the **simple** stuff

Mostly, it's **not** like the  
**movies.**  
(Sorry)



Expectation:

Reality:



Evaluate who you trust with data  
Security at all stages of the project  
Principle of least privilege  
Encrypt data in transit and at rest  
Check for public secrets  
Don't trust users & input  
Hash passwords properly  
Ensure your components aren't vulnerable  
OWASP Top Ten

Always be curious



Thanks!